REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 40–49 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Changes to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

Claims 45-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner argues the claims are vague because they are not written in means plus step function format. However, the rejected claims are method claims which recite each step in the standard "-ing" action verb format. Accordingly, Applicant does not understand the Examiner's argument and believes this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 40, 43, 44, 45, 48, and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Van der Put (U.S. Patent 4,685,097). Claims 41, 52, 46, and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van der Put in view of Sonnenschein et al. (U.S. Patent 4,975,358).

In response to the Applicant's previous arguments, the Examiner asserts:

> Generally, most circuit components operate within 0-5V, however the system power supply often provide 6-12V to the circuitry and the 5V power is often regulated or control to reduce the amount of power consumption in equipments. Having a 8-10V use to drive the UV short-wave laser is to meet the laser operating requirement, and most system power supply would able to meet the laser requirement as claimed by the applicant. (Office Action page 5)

In other words, the Examiner contends it would be obvious to use a 6-12V power supply to provide the 8-10V laser drive voltage (i.e. the first voltage) and the 5V laser control voltage (i.e. the input second voltage) claimed in the present invention. However, the intent of the present invention is to limit the input to the drive circuit to 5V while producing an 8-10V laser drive voltage, rather than simply using a higher voltage power supply as asserted by the Examiner.

Similarly, Van der Put illustrates the very problem the present invention is intended to solve. The present invention converts "an input second voltage into a first voltage greater than the input second voltage." (Claims 40 and 45) "The input second voltage being the highest voltage input to the device." (Claims 40 and 45) Thus, in the present invention, a maximum 5V is input to the circuit and this input voltage must be stepped up to an 8-10V drive voltage sufficient to drive a violet laser diode. The Examiner asserts Van der Put meets this limitation through its disclosed use of 2 power levels (a high write level and a lower read level) and use of a step-up comparator to switch between the levels if the power level is insufficient. (Office Action page 3) However, as shown in Figures 2 and 3, Van der Put's higher write level is limited to a maximum equal to the input 5V voltage level. In other words, Van der Put switches between two drive voltages, the higher of which is capped at the input 5V level. This is precisely the problem the present invention solves in order to drive the higher power required by violet laser diodes.

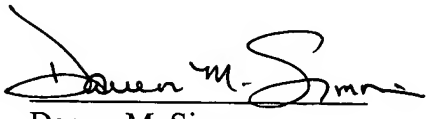
Therefore, for at least this reason, Van der Put and Sonnenschein, alone or in combination, fail to anticipate or obviate the present invention and claims 40–49 should be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are required, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By: 

Darren M. Simon
Reg. No. 47,946
(212) 588-0800